Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has evolved the concept of laying interceptor sewers along the three major drains namely, Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara in Delhi to prevent the flow of untreated sewage and its treatment before discharge to river Yamuna. The salient features of DJB's proposal include laying of interceptor sewers, augmentation of existing capacity of sewage treatment plants (STPs) and construction of additional sewage treatment plants after full utilization of existing STPs. The proposal takes care of the untreated sewage from unsewered areas and allows only discharge of treated effluent into river Yamuna. The tentative cost of the project is about Rs. 1300 crore. So far no expenditure has been incurred on the project. This concept is similar to the works implemented under Yamuna Action Plan, launched by Government of India in a phased manner.

(d) Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), pollution abatement works are implemented to improve the water quality in the identified polluted stretches of major rivers in the country. These works incude interception and diversion of raw sewage flowing into the rivers, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants for treating the diverted sewage, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and River Front Development among others. Presently, NRCP covers pollution abatement works in 164 towns along polluted stretches of 35 rivers spread over 20 States at an approved cost of Rs. 4863.75 crore.

Effect of climate change on power supply

2673. MS. SUSHILA TIPJYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that climate change has now affected the power supply in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the power disruptions from the climate changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) So far, no noticeable effects on power generation or supply, attribuatable to climatic change, have been observed. Central Electricity Authority has, however, reported a few grid disturbances owing to unprecedented fog, high humidity, high levels of pollution coupled with absence of winter rains.

(c) Does not arise.

Sale and Purchase of captive elephants

2674. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA SEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2501 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th September, 2007 and state:

(a) whether a final decision for relaxing the prohibition in the sale & purchase of captive elephants under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has since been taken;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when necessary amendments to the Act are proposed to be brought before Parliament; and

(c) if reply to part (a) above be in the negative, by when that is likely to be done?